

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA: TUR: RSDILLON

APPROVED BY: NEA: TUR: RSDILLON

----- 001206

R 210051 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075386

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USNATO, ATHENS, NICOSIA,
ADANA, ISTANBUL, IZMIR, USCINCEUR, USDOCOSOUTH, CINCUSAFE,
DIA APRIL 13, 1973 FROM ANKARA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2878

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: CALL ON JUSTICE PARTY CHAIRMAN DEMIREL

SUMMARY. DURING FAREWELL CALL ON JUSTICE PARTY CHAIRMAN
DEMIREL, I FOUND HIM IN EBULLIENTMOOD, SATISFIED WITH
RESULTS RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND WITH NEWLY- FORMED
TALU GOVERNMENT, CONFIDENT HIS OWN COMING TO POWER IN
OCTOBER ELECTIONS, SURE OF TURKEY' S CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP
WITH WEST, AND SEEING " BEAUTIFUL HORIZONS" FOR TURKEY ON
ALL SIDES. END SUMMARY

1. IN COURSE ROUND FAREWELL CALLS ON PARTY LEADERS, I
SPENT HOUR AND A HALF APRIL 12 WITH JUSTICE PARTY LEADER
DEMIREL. HAVING INTRODUCED DCM SPAIN (WHOM HE REMEMBERED
MEETING TEN YEARS EARLIER), I GAVE DEMIREL RESUME
AMBASSADOR MACOMBER' S CAREER AND HIS PREVIOUS INTERESTS
THIS AREA. DEMIREL RECOLLECTED OUR MANY USEFUL CONVERSA-
TIONS IN PAST AND INDICATED HOPE GIVE AND TAKE WOULD
CONTINUE AFTER AMBASSADOR MACOMBER' S ARRIVAL.

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2. TWICE IN THE CONVERSATION, I PROBED DEMIREL'S VIEWS ON OPIUM, TOUCHING INTER ALIA, ON SLG PROGRESS POPPY REPLACEMENT PROGRAM. DEMIREL REPLIED ALMOST CASUALLY, TREATING MATTER AS FINISHED BUSINESS, AND SAYING ONLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN NEXT FEW YEARS, AS LONG AS MATTER WELL HANDLED BY GOT WHICH, HE IMPLIED, SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT.

3. IN OBVIOUSLY EBULIENT MOOD, DEMIREL WENT INTO SOME DETAIL ON RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS, EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION WITH CHOICE OF KORUTURK AS PRESIDENT. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE PUT ARIBURUN OVER IF HE HAD PRESSED AT THE RIGHT MOMENT WITH ALL HIS RESOURCES, BUT THAT PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN ONE OF " WHO SHOULD BE ELECTED BUT RATHER OF WHO SHOULD NOT BE." ALL THE CANDIDATES, HE SAID, HAD BEEN GOOD MEN, BUT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE TRADITION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TGS AUTOMATICALLY BECOMING PRESIDENT HAD TO BE BROKEN. THAT DAY HAS NOW PASSED. PARLIAMENTARY SUPREMACY HAD NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED; THAT WAS THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

4. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE SELECTION OF TALU AS PRIME MINISTER, ACCURATELY INDICATING THE TIME AND NATURE OF THE SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENT. THE TALU GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, COULD BE CALLED A COALITION GOVERNMENT IF ONE WANTED. IT WOULD BE BASED ON A PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE JP AND THE RP. IT IS INTENDED BASICALLY AS A " FIVE MONTHS' GOVERNMENT" WHICH HAS ITS MAIN TASK COMPLETION OF REFORMS IN ELECTION LAWS, FOR THE UNIVERSITIES, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL SECURITY COURTS, DEMIREL WOULD SUPPPORT THE GOVERNMENT COMPLETELY; THERE MIGHT BE PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION, BUT HE HAD THE VOTES TO MAKE THINGS WORK. HE WOULD " HELP" TALU SELECT HIS MINISTERS BUT DIDN' T CARE PARTICULARLY JUST WHO THEY WERE.

5. TURNING TO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, DEMIREL SAID THE COUNTRY WAS NOW IN A POSITION TO BEGIN TO DO GREAT THINGS. BOTH RESOURCES AND REQUIREMENTS WERE GROWING. THE WORKERS FROM EUROPE WERE NOT ONLY BRINGING BACK MONEY BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY NEW IDEAS. ALL THAT IS NEEDED
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IS POLITICAL STABILITY AND A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

BOTH WOULD BE PRESENT AFTER THE OCTOBER ELECTIONS.

6. ON FOREIGN POLICY, HE SAID TURKEY'S POSITION WAS FIXED. IT HAD CHOSEN THE WEST AND WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE US. THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED. (HE RECALLED HIS OWN PAST DEFENSE OF NATO AND TIES WITH THE US.) RELATIONS WITH THE USSR MIGHT IMPROVE BUT THERE WAS STILL DANGER FROM SUBVERSION. HE KNEW IT AND SO DID ALL TURKS.

7. DEMIREL'S PERFORMANCE THROUGHOUT WAS IMPRESSIVE. HE POINTED AT STRIKING PICTURE OF HIS PEASANT FATHER, HUSSAIN, AND TALKED OF TURKEY AS " THE HUSSAINS" SEE IT. THEY LOVE THE ARMY, AND THE ARMY MUST BE SATISFIED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, BUT IT MUST NOT TRY TO RULE. WHAT THEY WANTED MOST WAS " AN OPEN SOCIETY," AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT. HE INDICATED THE MILITARY-- AS WELL AS " THE HUSSAINS"-- WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH KORUTURK AND TALU.

8. HE SAID WITH OBVIOUS SATISFACTION THAT THE DANGER OF A PRESIDENT'S VETOING A PRIME MINISTER WAS NOW PAST. THERE WOULD BE ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER AND HIS PARTY WOULD WIN. THE OTHER MAJOR PARTIES WERE DEVOTED TO DEMOCRACY TOO AND WHEN THEIR TURN CAME TO WIN, HE WOULD BE HAPPY. IF ELECTIONS WERE EVER CANCELLED, HE WOULD RESIGN AS A DEPUTY AND PARTY LEADER AND GO OUT AND " SHOULD" IN THE STREETS AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. SO WOULD OTHERS.

9. DEMIREL SAID REPEATEDLY THAT HE SEES " BEAUTIFUL HORIZONS" AHEAD FOR TURKEY ON ALL SIDES. WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY DOING A BIT OF ROLE- PLAYING FOR A FOREIGN AMBASSADOR, HIS CALM CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE WAS CONVINCING AND NOT UNREALISTIC; HIS PICTURE OF HIMSELF AS BEING COMPLETELY IN CONTROL OF RECENT EVENTS IS LARGELY SUBSTANTIATED BY OTHER SOURCES. A LOT CAN HAPPEN BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER-- EVEN AFTERWARDS--, BUT IT SEEMS A SAFE BET THAT DEMIREL WILL REMAIN A MAJOR FORCE IN TURKISH POLITICS FOR SOME TIME TO COME. INDEED, HIS OWN IMAGE OF HIMSELF AS " THE MAN" FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE CORRECT.

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HANDLEY UNQUOTE PORTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE075386
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA: TUR: RSDILLON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730449/aaaaivba.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980128
Subject: CALL ON JUSTICE PARTY CHAIRMAN DEMIREL
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU
To: CINCLANT FOR POLAD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005